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EXCISE:

Being a

COLLECTION

OF

LETTERS, &c.

CONTAINING,

The SENTIMENTS and INSTRUCTIONS of the Merchants, Traders, Gentry, and Inhabitants of the principal Cities, Counties, Towns, and Boroughs, in *England*, to their Repreſentatives in Parliament, againſt a *New* EXCISE, or any Extenſion of *Exciſe Laws*, in what Shape ſoever.

The Whole

Alphabetically digeſted, with the NAMES of the MEMBERS who repreſent the ſaid Cities and Counties, &c.

LONDON:

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(Price 6 d.)

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St. ALBANS.

Inſtructions given by the Corporation of St. Albans, *under their Common Seal, to their Repreſentatives in Parliament, at the late Election of a Member for that Borough.*

LONDON, *Feb.* 3.

SIR,

WE have choſen you to be our Repreſentative in Parliament, which is the higheſt truſt we can repoſe in you; and in return for ſo good a Confidence, we expect you will have a conſtant Regard for the Intereſt of your Country, and eſpecially of this Borough: But as this is a very critical Conjuncture, we think it neceſſary to give you *more particular Inſtructions.* In the firſt Place, Sir, As we are in profound Peace, we are ſurprized to find no Reduction of the LAND *Forces*, which we conceive to be dangerous to our Conſtitution, and we feel to be very burthenſome and oppreſſive to us.

In the next Place, we are alarmed with an Attempt to be made this Seſſion of Parliament, for extending the Excise *Laws* to Commodities not yet exciſed. We hope, however, that theſe Reports are falſe, and raiſed by the Enemies to our Conſtitution, and to his Majeſty's Government. But if any one, who calls himſelf an *Engliſhman*, ſhould be ſo much an Enemy to his Majeſty and us, to *propoſe ſuch a Scheme*, we expect, Sir, from you, the moſt vigorous Oppoſition to it; for we look upon the Continuance of ſo great a Body of *Land Forces*, and an Increaſe of Exciſe Officers under our preſent Circumſtances, as a ſure Preſage of an entire Subverſion of the antient Conſtitution, and all the valuable Privileges belonging to it, which have ſo long diſtinguiſhed us from our neighbour Nations.

A Conſtitution, Sir, that our Forefathers have, at the Expence of their Lives and Fortunes, delivered down ſafe to us, and which, we hope, we ſhall have the Virtue and Courage to deliver to lateſt Poſterity, under a Succeſſion of Princes iſſuing from his preſent moſt ſacred Majeſty; whoſe Family came in on the *Principles* of *Liberty*; who can be maintained on no other. Whoever, therefore, tries to ſap up the Foundation of *Liberty*, is at the ſame Time underminding his Majeſty's Title to the Crown; which Thoughts give us the utmoſt Abhorrence: And we expect from you, Sir, a conſtant and ſteady Purſuit of ſuch Meaſures as will keep our Conſtitution, as near as may be, in the ſame Situation, under which it has long flouriſhed. And we do not doubt, but in ſuch a Conduct you will have the Aſſiſtance *of our other worthy Member, and of all honeſt* Engliſhmen.

Members.

Lord Viſcount GRIMSTON,
JOHN MERRILL *Eſq*;

BRISTOL.

City of BRISTOL, *Jan.* 10.

AT a Meeting of the Common Council this Day, the Queſtion was put, Whether an Exciſe on any Goods now rated to the Cuſtoms, would be agreeable to the Sentiments of this Houſe. It paſſed in the Negative *Nem. Con.* And it is reſolved, *Nem. Con.* That ſhould an

an Exciſe be laid on any cuſtomable Merchandize, or home manufactured Goods, that it would be very detrimental to the Trader and Trade in general. And therefore it is unanimouſly ordered, That the Reſolution of this Houſe be communicated to the Repreſentatives in Parliament for this City: And that they be deſired from this Houſe, to oppoſe, by all dutiful and legal Methods, any Attempt that ſhall be made to lay an Exciſe on any cuſtomable Merchandize, or home-manufactured Goods; and that a Moiety of the Expence of ſuch Oppoſition be defray'd at the Expence of the Chamber of this City. And Mr. Chamberlain is hereby ordered to iſſue Money for that Purpoſe, in Conjunction with the Society of Merchants of this City.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 20.

Members.

JOHN SCROPE Eſq;
Sir ABRAHAM ELTON Batt.

A LETTER *from a Merchant in* Briſtol *to a Member of Parliament.*

SIR, BRISTOL *March* 5. 1732.

THE incloſed is what I am deſired to ſend to you; another of the ſame is ſent to Mr. *Scrope*, which is what we think ourſelves obliged to do, to vindicate ourſelves from the vile ſcandalous Falſities in that Pamphlet, in which are ſo many Things contrary to Fact, that ſhews the the Writer's Deſign was only to defame the Merchants trading in Wine and Tobacco, without any Regard to Truth. As to the former I know nothing of it; but as to Tobacco, he ſays our Bonds are for three Years, which are but eighteen Months: We have Liberty to ſhip off Tobacco any Time within three Years after Importation; but the Bonds are demandable in eighteen Months; nor do I know of any Inſtance of longer Indulgence. The Frauds mention'd, Page 13. are ſuch as we complained of to the Parliament, as committed in *Scotland* in 1721; but that ſuch hath been committed by the *Engliſh* Merchants, the Author ſhould have proved, before he charged us with ſuch vile Practices, which we abhor; and as to this City, can declare, are abſolutely falſe, and without the leaſt Foundation;

Foundation; and are ready to clear ourſelves, as by the Incloſed. The beſt Way will be, that of the proper Officers ſending up an Account of the imported Weights, compared with thoſe they have from Virginia: For by a late Law in *Virginia*, all their Tobacco is weighed naked, and the Weights of each Hogſhead ſent to the Officers here, by which any conſiderable Fraud will be diſcovered, except common Shrinking; which appears to be about ſix or ſeven *per Cent.* Difference between the *Virginia* Weights and thoſe taken here, where there is no Damage or Pilferage. In Page the 28th, he ſays, we preſs it to make it dry or Light: Which is ridiculous. It is preſſed in the Plantations to make it heavy, on account of ſaving in the Freight, which is ſo much *per* Hogſhead, be it heavy or light. And he further ſaith, we wet or water it to the Increaſe of one Fourth of the Weight on Exportation; whereas wetting Tobacco intirely ſpoils it, unleſs it be rolled, which formerly were ſhipped off in great Quantities, and an Increaſe was allowed on it, for the Encouragement of that Trade, which is now in Diſuſe, or in very ſmall Parcels. Exorbitant Commiſſion is another Article brought in, only to diſcredit Merchants among thoſe that know not the Meaning of ſuch a Charge. It ſometimes happens the Planters ſend bad Tobacco, and the Markets low, that it will nett little more than the Freight, Duty, and incident Charges, which the Merchant advances, whoſe Commiſſion may amount to eight, to twelve Shillings, and may be more than the Hogſhead clears. Muſt the Merchant be arraigned for an Extortioner, for taking his allowed Commiſſion of Two and a Half *per Cent.*? Muſt not he be a Villain that uſes Mankind in this Manner? Fix the Frauds on particular Perſons, Merchants, or Officers, and puniſh them as ſevere as the Laws will allow; but it is vile to decry and defame Men that have more Virtue, and greater Senſe of Honour than himſelf, becauſe they are Merchants, by whom alone the Nation hath been enabled to raiſe ſuch vaſt Sums as it annually doth. To call the Oppoſers of Exciſe Jacobites, Republicans, Enemies to the King, *&c.* looks as if the Writer was a Garretteer, inſtead of a Member of Parliament.

I am,

Your Obedient humble Servant,

L. L.

BEDFORD.

BEDFORD.

WE hear the Corporation of *Bedford* have wrote to their Repreſentatives in Parliament, requeſting them to oppoſe any *New Exciſe*, or the converting any of the Cuſtoms into *Exciſes*.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 5.

Members.

JOHN ORLEBAR Eſq;
Sir JER. VANACKER SAMBROKE Kt.

BOSTON in Lincolnſhire.

THE Mayor, Aldermen, *&c.* of *Boſton* in *Lincolnſhire*, in Common Hall aſſembled, have wrote up to their Members to oppoſe any new Exciſe-Laws, or the Extenſion of the preſent Laws of Exciſe, under what Shape or Appearance it may be offer'd to the Houſe; and the ſaid Members have promiſed to oppoſe any Thing of that Kind which ſhall be offer'd.

D. POST, *March* 10.

Members.

Sir RICHARD EYLES,
HEN. *Lord* COLERANE.

BIDEFORD.

WE hear the Mayor, Aldermen, Capital Burgeſſes, and Merchants of the Town of *Bideford*, in the County of *Devon*, have ſent a Letter to the Repreſentatives in Parliament for the ſaid County, deſiring them to oppoſe any Attempt that ſhall be made to extend the Laws relating to the Exciſe.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 10.

Members for the County.

Sir WILLIAM COURTNEY Baronet,
HENRY ROLLS Eſq;

BEDWIN, Wilts.

WE hear that the Members for the Borough of *Great Bedwin*, in *Wiltſhire*, have received a Letter ſigned by ſeveral of the moſt conſiderable Inhabitants of the ſaid Borough, requeſting them in the ſtrongeſt Terms ſtrenuouſly to oppoſe any *New Exciſe*, or Extenſion of the *Exciſe Laws*, in any Shape whatſoever.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 10.

Members.

WILLIAM SLOPER, } Eſquires.
FRANCIS SEYMOUR, }

BRACKLY.

WE are inform'd the Borough of *Brackly*, in *Northhamptonſhire*, have follow'd the ſame laudable Example of *Nottingham* and *Hull*, to their Repreſentatives in Parliament, requeſting them to oppoſe any New Exciſe.

Members.

Sir PAUL METHUEN Knt. of the *Bath*.
——— LEIGH Eſq;

COVENTRY.

COVENTRY, *Jan.* 20.

The under-written Letter was this Day ſign'd by the Mayor, *and the reſt of the* Aldermen, *(except Alderman* Keiſley, *who is Poſt-maſter,) and ſent to each of our Repreſentatives in Parliament*, viz.

SIR,

WE being apprehenſive that a Motion will be made during the preſent Seſſion of Parliament, to convert ſome of the Cuſtoms into an Exciſe on Home Conſumption; and having duly conſider'd the pernicious Conſequences that will enſue, ſhould the ſame take Effect, not only to the Trade of this Kingdom, but the Liberties of the Subject; thought it our Duty to let you know

know our Sentiments on this important Occaſion, earneſtly requeſting you to oppoſe any *New Exciſe*, or *any Extenſion of Exciſe Laws* whatſoever.

CRAFTSMAN, *July* 27.

Members.

Sir ADOLPHUS OUGHTON Bart,
JOHN NEALE Eſq;

CHESTER.

WE hear that the Mayor, Aldermen, and principal Merchants and Traders of the City of *Cheſter*, of all Parties, have united in a Letter to *Robert Groſvenor* Eſq; one of their Repreſentatives in Parliament, earneſtly requeſting him to oppoſe any *New Exciſe*, or *Extenſion of the Exciſe Laws*, in whatever Shape it may be attempted.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 17.

Members.

Sir RICHARD GROSVENOR Bart. (dead)
Sir THOMAS GROSVENOR Bart.

CANTERBURY.

SIR, *Feb.* 10. 1732-3.

WE the Mayor and Commonalty of this City, in Burghmote aſſembled, having taken into Conſideration the Conſequences of extending the Laws of *Exciſe* to any Commodities not yet exciſed; and being fully perſuaded that the Extention of ſuch Laws muſt not only be very prejudicial to the fair Trader, by ſubjecting him to many grievous Vexations from Officers, and a Multitude of other Inconveniences, too obvious to be repeated, but alſo may in Time be very dangerous to thoſe Liberties and Properties of the Subjects of *Great Britain*, which they in a moſt diſtinguiſh'd Manner enjoy, beyond all other Nations of *Europe*, under the preſent happy Eſtabliſhment, are come to a Reſolution (*nemine contradicente*) earneſtly to recommend it to you, one of our Repreſentatives in Parliament, (having by a like Letter recommended it to your Coleague,) that you do to the utmoſt of your Power oppoſe any Bill or Bills that ſhall be offer'd in Parliament for extending any of the preſent Laws of Exciſe, or making any new Proviſion

whatſoever for exciſing any Commodities not as yet liable to the Laws of Exciſe.

SAWKINS.

By Order of the Court of Burghmote.

Members. LOND. Even. *Feb.* 24

Sir WILLIAM HARDRESS } Bart.
Sir THOMAS HALES }

COLCHESTER.

A Copy of a Letter ſent by the Corporation of Colcheſter *to their Repreſentatives in Parliament, in relation to the Exciſe.*

GENTLEMEN,

IN Conſequence of that Right we undoubtedly have to apply to our Repreſentatives in Parliament on all Occaſions, we take this Opportunity of complaining, That Trade has long labour'd under many Diſcouragements, not to call them Oppreſſions, in reſpect to the Laws of Exciſe, and particularly an undue and partial Execution of them; which Practice is become ſo odious and burthenſome, that nothing leſs than the Animadverſion and Correction of Parliament can redreſs ſuch a growing Evil.

During this melancholy Situation, and whilſt the Miſchiefs of the Laws that are already in being, touching Exciſes, are univerſally felt and complain'd of, we can ſcarce give Credit to the Surmiſes of new ones of the like dangerous Tendency being propoſed; but leſt contrary to the concurrent Sentiments of Perſons of all Denominations, any one ſhould be ſo forgetful of his Duty to his Country, as to attempt the Laying on any new Exciſe, on any Branch of Trade, in any Form, or on any Pretence whatſoever, we hope, nay, we expect, you ſhould oppoſe it to the utmoſt of your Power, as an Affair dangerous to the very Being of Parliaments, and our excellent Conſtitution.

We are, Sirs,

Yours, &c.

The

The Answer of a Member of Parliament, to a Letter lately sent him from the Borough of ——

GENTLEMEN,

I Have receiv'd the Letter you have lately been pleased to honour me with; wherein you seem to be under great Apprehensions, that something will shortly be offer'd to the House, injurious to Trade, and dangerous to the very Being of Parliaments, and our excellent Constitution. —— Should that be the Case, I flatter my self you will never entertain so disadvantageous an Opinion of me, as to think I can be regardless of the Trust which you have reposed in me, or of that Duty which I owe my Country.

As to Trade, I have ever thought it a Matter of such Consequence, as to deserve the more immediate Care of the Representatives of a Trading People, almost preferably to every other Consideration, as the surest Basis of the Riches, Strength, and Prosperity of these Kingdoms.

You are pleased, however, to own, that your Apprehensions on this Occasion proceed from Surmises which you can scarce give Credit to; and I hope you will very soon be convinc'd, that they are without any real Foundation.

But as I am not acquainted with what is intended to be proposed, I think it would very ill become me to be so far guided by implicit Faith, as either to approve or condemn what at present I am a Stranger to.

Should it tend to what Jealousy may possibly suggest, should it appear detrimental to Trade, dangerous to the Constitution of Parliaments, or the Liberties of my Fellow-Subjects, I hope it is not in my Nature to forget that I am an Englishman.

But if, contrary to the Sentiments which are at present entertain'd by many Persons who wish well to their Country, it should prove a Benefit to Trade, by pointing out a Remedy for the Frauds which are so universally practis'd, to the great Discouragement and Prejudice of the fair Trader; if, without creating any new Duties, or increasing those which are already establish'd, it should so considerably improve the Revenues, as upon any Emergency to supply the Necessities of the Publick;

if the Government ſhould be thereby enabled to leſſen the National Debt, or give Eaſe to thoſe Branches of Trade which are moſt burthenſome to our poor Manufacturers; if this ſhould be the Tendency of the Scheme, I am ſure my Aſſent to it can't fail of your Approbation.

In Confidence of which, acting upon theſe Principles, and upon this Foundation, I can have no Reaſon to doubt the Continuance of your Favour, which it will always be my Endeavour to deſerve.

Feb. 16. 1732-3. *I am, Gentlemen, your moſt Faithful and Obedient Humble Servant.*

* * * * * *

To the Mayor, Aldermen, Common-Council, and Burgeſſes of * * * *

A Reply *from the Corporation to the Letter from one of their Members.*

SIR,

I Had the Favour of yours; and communicated the Contents to many of thoſe who lately troubled you with their Sentiments on the important Subject of Exciſe Laws; and I have Authority to aſſure you, that nothing in your Anſwer hath in the leaſt alter'd our Thoughts; and if you vote for a Bill of that Nature, even in the Shape you ſeem to be pleas'd with, or in any other, you can't reaſonably expect our Approbation, ſince we are fully convinc'd that all *Exciſe Laws* are deſtructive to Trade, Innovations on our ancient Rights, and altogether inconſiſtent with the true Intereſt of a Free People.

The ſpecious Pretence of ſerving the fair Trader can no longer amuſe us, when we too often ſee thoſe very Laws, which were calculated for their Protection, uſed againſt them; nor can it be otherwiſe expected, whilſt the Execution of thoſe Laws is under the Management of ſuch as by their ill Conduct have render'd themſelves juſtly odious in all Parts of the Kingdom, by often making it a Part of their Duty to be troubleſome, in hopes of meriting by their Activity and Vigilance.

If you would act agreeable to our Wiſhes and Inclinations, before you think of improving or extending the Revenues, make it a Preliminary, that the Laws of Exciſe be firſt regulated, and Trade and the poor Manu-

facturer

facturer eaſed; and when this is done, aſſure yourſelf nothing will be more grateful to us, than to ſee the Neceſſities of the Government fully ſupplied, as well as proper Proviſions made to anſwer all National Engagements, ſo as they are annual, and repeated no oftner than Occaſion requires, and the Manner of Collection be made eaſy to the Subject. Acting on theſe Principles, you cannot fail of having the Approbation and Thanks of us, and all true Lovers of their Country.

COLCHESTER, *Feb.* 28. 1732-3.

I am, Sir,
Your moſt Humble Servant,
The MAYOR.

To Sam. Tuffnel *Eſq;*

DAILY-POST, *March* 3.

Members.

STAMP BROOKSBAND Eſq;
SAMUEL TUFFNEL Eſq;

EXETER.

FROM Exeter, That the Right Worſhipful the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of that City, being of Opinion, that an Extenſion of the Exciſe Laws would be prejudicial and burthenſome to the Trade, and Subjects of this Kingdom, have requeſted their Repreſentatives to exert their utmoſt Endeavours, and uſe their beſt Intereſt to prevent the Paſſing any Bill of that Kind.

Members.

JOAN BELFEILD Eſq;
FRANCIS DREWE Eſq;

GROCERS.

AT a Meeting of a great Number of eminent Grocers of the City of *London*, and Borough of *Southwork*, *&c. Jan.* 3. 1733.

Reſolved, That the Grocers here preſent, will unanimouſly, as far as lies in their Power, uſe the moſt dutiful

dutiful and lawful Means they can, by themſelves and their Friends, moſt ſtrenuouſly to oppoſe any new Exciſe, or Inland Duties, under the Exciſe Laws, or any Extention of the Exciſe Laws, under whatſoever Name or Title it may be attempted.

And whereas, many of us here preſent, are now under the Exciſe, and have been great Sufferers on that Account; ſometimes by our own or Servants Omiſſions, without any fraudulent Deſign, but oftener by the Neglect, Miſtakes, or Ignorance of the Exciſe-Officers; and have been ſo diſturbed in our Trade, that ſome of us have already, and now more are leaving off the Trade of exciſeable Goods, to the great Damage of our Families; that were a farther Exciſe laid on more Goods which we ſell, it will not be only be next to impoſſible to carry on our Trade as Grocers, but as we apprehend it will be highly prejudicial to Trade in general, and may be dangerous to the Liberties and Properties of the whole Kingdom.

We do likewiſe unanimouſly agree, That we will write to our Chapmen and Friends in all the Cities and Boroughs to which we Trade, that they will make it their earneſt Requeſt to their ſeveral Repreſentatives, and other Friends and Neighbours, who have a Seat in Parliament, that they will likewiſe oppoſe any new Exciſe, or any Extenſion of the Laws of Exciſe, under any Name or Title whatſoever.

That a Committee be appointed to act with the Committee of Citizens, Merchants, and Traders of *London*, appointed for that Purpoſe.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 13. 1732-3.

GLOUCESTER.

The following Letter, ſigned by a great Number of the principal Inhabitans of the City of Glouceſter, *was ſent to each of their Repreſentatives.*

SIR, GLOUCESTER, *Feb.* 2. 1732-3.

AMIDST loud Complaints at the low Ebb of *Trade*, and the general Apprehenſions of *new Exciſe*, to ſink it lower at a Time when the Situation of publick Affairs flattered us into Hopes, that Meaſures would be taken

taken to raiſe it, you, as one of our Repreſentatives in Parliament, could not but expect and deſire our *Sentiments* and *Inſtructions*.

It is indiſputable that the Riches, Strength, and Glory of this Nation are owing to *Trade*; which, for that Reaſon, is certainly entitled to all the Favour, Protection, and Encouragement of our *Laws*.

We are fully convinced, that *any Extenſion of Exciſe Laws* will be not only detrimental to *Trade*, but injurious to our *Liberties*; and think it hard *thoſe Liberties*, for the Preſervation whereof *Taxes* are paid, ſhould be hurt by the very Means of *Taxing*. It therefore highly concerns us, by all juſtifiable Ways, to avoid and prevent, if poſſible, *any ſuch Extenſion*.

You need not now be told the many particular Grievances and Inconveniences, inſeparable from *ſuch Laws*, ſo we ſhall forbear enumerating them, and haſten to *requeſt* that you will, nay, the Importance compels us to *inſiſt* that you do, according to the Truſt repoſed in you, uſe your utmoſt Efforts in diſcouraging and oppoſing *all Attempts* to lay us under the Bondage thereof, as you will anſwer it to God, your Conſcience, and your Country.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 17.

Members.

CHARLES SELWIN Eſq;
BENJAMIN BATHURST Eſq;

HINDON.

A Letter from the Inhabitants of Hindon, *in* Wilts, *to their Repreſentatives in Parliament.*

SIRS,

AS we have good Reaſon to apprehend, that there is an Intention of converting ſome of the Duties, now payable at the Cuſtom-Houſe, into Exciſe or Inland Duties, to the great Prejudice of the Trade of this Kingdom, and Dangers of the Liberties of the People: We the Inhabitants and Traders of this Borough of *Hindon*, have thought it our Duty to let

you

you know our Sentiments upon it; and we intreat you (as you value the Intereſt of the Inhabitants, and the Good of your Country) to oppoſe and vote againſt any new Exciſe, or any Extenſion of the Exciſe Laws, that may be offered, on any Pretence whatſoever. And we hope you will not be induced, for any Conſiderations to give your Conſents, that any cuſtomable Duty, ſhould be converted into an Inland Duty, by which there may be an Increaſe of Officers, who have been already found a great Grievance to the People; though Policy may olige the PROJECTOR of ſuch Schemes to ſay otherwiſe.

Signed by us, the Inhabitants and Traders of the Borough of Hindon, *this 16th Day of* Feb. 1732-3.

DAILY-POST, *March* 7.

Members.

TOWNSEND ANDREWS Eſq;
GEORGE HEATHCOTE Eſq;

HULL.

THAT ſtrict Application has been made to their Members, to the ſame Effect of that of *Nottingham.*

LONDON EVENING-POST, *Jan.* 18.

Members.

Hamborough and *Holland* Merchants.

ON *Thurſday*, at a Meeting of a great Number of *Hamborough* and *Holland* Merchants, and Linnen-Drapers of this City, they unanimouſly reſolved, as far as lies in their Power, to uſe the moſt dutiful and lawful Means they can, by themſelves and Friends, ſtrenuouſly to oppoſe any new Exciſe, or Extenſion of the Exciſe Laws, under any Denomination whatſoever; and a Committee was appointed for that Purpoſe.

LOND. EVEN. *Jan.* 13.

KENT,

KENT.

Jan. 20. 1732-3.

AS the Advocates for the Extenſion of the Exciſe Laws have denied that thoſe Officers do at any Time, in the Execution of their Office, commit illegal Actions, or Attempts to invade the Rights and Properties of the Subject, and have called for Inſtances of any ſuch Proceedings, I herewith ſend you a Caſe, which you may depend on Matter of Fact, and do deſire you to publiſh it for their better Information.

THE latter End of the laſt Month, *on a Sunday*, when an honeſt Farmer in this Neighbourhood was at Church, the Surveyor of Exciſe came to his Houſe, with an Officer of Exciſe or two, *and two or three Dragoons*, and ſearched his Barns, Stables, *&c.* moving his Corn, Fodder, &c. and doing him conſiderable Miſchief, but were gone before the Man came home. In the Evening *of the ſame Day*, there came another Exciſe Officer, *with a Cornet of Dragoons*, and two or three more *Dragoons:* It being pretty dark, and the Farmer within, and obſerving ſome People about his Door, he took his Fork and went to the Door. Upon which they told him, they were come to ſearch his Houſe for uncuſtomed Good: The Man told them he had none: They told him they muſt ſcarch. Says the Man, Have you a Warrant? They replied, No; but they muſt ſearch. The Man replied, if you have a Warrant you ſhall ſearch; but if you have not, not a Man of you ſhall enter my Houſe. Upon this *the Cornet of Dragoons cocked his Piſtol*, and told the Man, that if he did not immediately give Way, and let them in, *he would ſhoot him through the Head.* The Man ſtanding in the Door-Caſe, bid him be ſure of his Fire, for if he miſſed, his Fork ſhould be in his Guts. Upon this they thought fit to withdraw.

The honeſt Farmer coming ſoon after to complain to a Juſtice of Peace, he ſent to the Surveyor of Exciſe, that he might appear before the Bench of Juſtices at their Sittings at *Aſhford*, and order'd the other Exciſe Officer to appear, to anſwer to this Matter. Upon his appearing (which was the 6th Inſtant,) he at firſt inſiſted, *he could ſearch any Houſe by Virtue of his Office.* But being over-ruled in that, and being told, that no Officer

could ſearch *any private Houſe, but by a ſpecial Warrant for that Purpoſe*, granted upon the Oath of the Officer that he had ſome *ſpecial Reaſon for ſuſpecting the Perſon's Houſe he would ſearch*, which Cauſe muſt be thought ſufficient by the Juſtice who grants the Warrant; the Surveyor then ſaid he had a Warrant at Home, which being ſent for, appeared to be to this Purpoſe.

Whereas I have received Information from A. B. *that he hath Reaſon to ſuſpect that ſeveral Retailers of Brandy, Tea,* &c. *do ſecret Brandy, Tea,* &c. *in Rooms and Places not entered; theſe are to authorize you, the ſaid* A. B. *to enter into and ſearch all Rooms and Places of ſuch Retailers,* &c. and other neighbouring Houſes.

This Warrant bore an old Date. Upon this the Surveyor was told by the Juſtices, that this Warrant, *ſuch as it was*, could not juſtify him, or give him any Authority to ſearch the honeſt Farmer's Houſe; and as he had done ſo illegal an Action, he muſt anſwer for it, and they were obliged to do the Man ſo much Juſtice as to bind the Officer over to the Quarter-Seſſions, which being in two or three Days after, the Surveyor, *&c.* were indicted, and the Bill being found by the Grand Jury, he traverſed the Indictment, which will be try'd next Seſſions, unleſs it be moved by *Certiorari* to the *King's-Bench*. This, I think, is a flagrant Inſtance of what would be done, and is evidently aimed at by the Exciſe Officers, and the armed Forces that is diſperſed all over the Country to aſſiſt them.

I am,

Your humble Servant.

LANCASTER.

WE have an Account from *Lancaſter*, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Merchants, with the reſt of the conſiderable People of that Corporation, appointed a Meeting to conſider of the Dangers and Misfortunes that an Exciſe might bring upon that Port, and all other, as well as upon the Nation in general; and therefore reſolved upon, and did write a Letter to their Members to be againſt an

Exciſe,

Exciſe, in what Form, and under what Denomination ſoever.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 5. 1732-3.

Members.

Sir THOMAS LOWTHER *Bart.*
CHRISTOPHER TOWER *Eſq*;

LEICESTER.

FROM *Leiceſter*, that at a Court of Aldermen and Common Council, in the Common Hall Aſſembled, it was unanimouſly reſolved, That Mr. Mayor do write in the Name of this Corporation, to the Repreſentatives in Parliament, for their Borough and County, earneſtly deſiring them to oppoſe any new Exciſe, or any Extenſion of Exciſe Laws, under what Name or Pretence ſoever it may be attempted.

LONDON EVENING POST, *Jan.* 6. 1732-3.

Members.

Sir GEORGE BEAUMONT,
GEORGE WRIGHT *Eſq*;

LONDON.

AT a Meeting Yeſterday Se'nnight of a great Number of Merchants, Traders and Citizens, at the *Swan Tavern* in *Cornhill*, it was unanimouſly reſolved "That the Merchants, Traders, and Citizens, here "preſent, will act with the utmoſt Unanimity, and "by all dutiful and lawful Methods, ſtrenuouſly op- "poſe any *new Exciſe*, or any Extenſion of the *Exciſe* "*Laws*, under what ever Name or Pretence it may be "attempted." And they deputed Sir *William Chapman*, Mr. Alderman *Chapman*, Mr. Alderman *Godſeal*, Sir *John Groſvenor*, Mr. *Willimot*, Mr. *Boſworth*, Mr. *Lambert*, Mr. *Bradley*, Mr. *Clarke*, Mr. *Wilſon*, Mr. *Chittys*, Mr. *Pearſe*, Mr. *Haſwell*, Mr. *Hyde*, Mr. *Lockwood*, Mr. *Weyland*, Mr. *Harris*, Mr. *Hyme*, Mr. *Cliver*, Mr. *Daſh*, Mr. *Marſhall*, Mr. *Newnam*, Mr. *Standford*, Mr. *Foy*, and Mr. *Dunwalf*, to wait upon the four Repreſentatives of this City, with the ſaid Reſolution; and in the moſt earneſt Manner requeſt them,

in the Names of the Merchants, Traders, and Citizens there met, to oppoſe with the utmoſt Vigour and Reſolution, any Motion of that kind in the Houſe of Commons.

CRAFTSMAN, *Dec.* 30. 1733.

YEſterday a Committee appointed by the ſeveral Merchants and eminent Traders of this City, went in a Body and waited on the Rt. Hon. *Arthur Onſlow*, Eſq; Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, concerning the Affair of the General Exciſe, which they are apprehenſive will be brought before the Houſe the enſuing Seſſion of Parliament.

LONDON EVENING POST, *Jan.* 13. 1733.

London Merchants.

AT a Meeting of a great Number of Citizens, Merchants, and Traders of the City of *London*, the 22d of *December*, 1733.

It was unanimouſly reſolved, That the Citizens, Merchants, and Traders, here preſent, will act with the utmoſt Unanimity, and by all dutiful and lawful Methods, ſtrenuouſly to oppoſe any new Exciſe, or any Extenſion of the Exciſe Laws, under whatever Name or Pretence it may be attempted.

That the Committee, appointed for that Purpoſe, do wait on the four *Repreſentatives of this City* with the ſaid Reſolution; and, in the moſt earneſt Manner, requeſt them in the Name of the ſaid Citizens, Merchants, and Traders, to oppoſe, with the utmoſt Vigour and Reſolution, any Motion of that kind in the Houſe of Commons; for ſhould *ſuch Exciſe*, or *Extention of Exciſe Laws*, take Effect, it be will highly prejudicial to the *Trade*, *Manufactures*, and *Navigation*, as well as dangerous to *the Liberties of the whole Kingdom*; that the ſaid *Committee* do wait on every Citizen who has *a Seat in Parliament*, with the ſame Reſolution and Requeſt.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 6. 1732-3.

At

Feb. 15. 1732.

At a *Common Council*, held this Day at *Guild-hall*, the following Repreſentation was reſolved *Nemine Contradicente*.

The Repreſentation of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, *and* Commons *of the City of* London, *in Common Council aſſembled, to Sir* John Eyles, *Mr. Alderman* Parſons, *Sir* John Barnard, *and* Mr. *Alderman* Perry, *Repreſentatives in Parliament.*

THIS Court doth apprehend, from the Experience of the *Laws of Exciſe* now in being, that *extending thoſe Laws* to any Commodities not yet exciſed, muſt neceſſarily be very prejudicial to *Trade*, both as it will probably diminiſh the Conſumption of the Commodities to be exciſed, and ſubject the fair Trader to the frequent and arbitary Viſitation of *Officers*, and the judicial Determination of *Commiſſioners*, removeable at Pleaſure, from whom there is no Appeal.

That the *Extenſion of ſuch Laws* muſt neceſſarily increaſe the Number and Power of *Officers*, which will be inconſiſtent with thoſe Principles of *Liberty* on which our happy Conſtitution is founded, and will further deprive the Subjects of *England* of ſome of thoſe valuable Privileges, which have hitherto diſtinguiſhed them from the neighbouring Nations.

Wherefore *this Court* doth earneſtly recommend it to you, their Repreſentatives, to uſe your utmoſt Diligence in oppoſing a *Scheme of this Nature*, ſhould any ſuch be offered in Parliament, *in any Shape, or however limited in its firſt Appearance*; being fully convinced, than an *Inland Duty* on Goods, now rated at the *Cuſtom-houſe*, cannot be effectually collected, even with an *Extenſion of the Powers*, or the *ſevereſt Exerciſe of all the Rigours of the preſent Laws of Exciſe.*

Members.

Sir JOHN EYLES.
HUMPHRY PARSONS *Eſq*;
Sir JOHN BARNARD.
MICAJAH PERRY *Eſq*;

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 17. 1733.

A Great Number of eminent Citizens of *London*, met laſt *Saturday* at the *Mitre-Tavern* in *Fleet-Street*, to concert Meaſures for Petitioning againſt a *New Exciſe*.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 20 1733.

LIVERPOOL.

AT a general Meeting of the Merchants and Traders of that Corporation, on *Saturday* laſt, they came to the ſame Reſolutions with the Gentlemen of *London* againſt any *farther Exciſe*.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 6. 1732-3.

THE Merchants of *Liverpool*, have written to moſt of the Towns in that County, deſiring their Friends to make early Application to every Member of Parliament they have the leaſt Pretenſion to ask Favour from, to oppoſe every Attempt of any *new Exciſe*, or any Extenſion of the *Exciſe Laws*, in any Shape whatever.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 20. 1732-3.

Members.

THOMAS BOOTH *Eſq*;
Sir THOMAS ASTON.

LYNN.

MONDAY a Deputation from the Inhabitants of *Lynn Regis* in *Norfolk*, arrived in Town from thence, in order to wait upon *Sir* ROBERT WALPOLE and *Sir* CHARLES TURNER, their Repreſentatives in Parliament, earneſtly to require them to oppoſe any Thing that may be offer'd towards an Exciſe on certain Commodities.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 20. 1732-3.

Members.

Sir ROBERT WALPOLE,
Sir CHARLES TURNER.

NOR-

NORWICH.

LETTERS from *Norwich* adviſe, That the Traders in Tobacco *of that City*, have wrote circular Letters to their Members, and alſo to thoſe of the County, and of the ſeveral Boroughs therein, earneſtly requeſting them to oppoſe the turning the Duty on Tobacco, &c. into an Exciſe.

FOGG, *Jan.* 13. 1732-3.

Members.

WALLER BACON Eſq;
ROBERT BRITIFFE Eſq;

NORTHAMPTON.

THE Borough of *Northampton*, have likewiſe made the ſame Application to their Repreſentatives as that of *Coventry*.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 27. 1732-3.

Members.

Hon. EDWARD MOUNTAGUE Eſq;
GEORGE COMPTON Eſq;

NEWCASTLE upon Tyne.

Newcaſtle upon Tyne, Jan. 24. 1732-3.

AT a Merchants Court held here this Day, ſeveral of the Company taking Notice how much they have ſuffered by the preſent Exciſe Laws, upon Tea, Coffee, Liquors, &c. inſomuch that ſome had been obliged to lay aſide thoſe Branches of their Buſineſs; it was unanimouſly agreed, That any Extenſion of the preſent Exciſe Laws, to Wine, Tobacco, Sugar, &c. would be highly detrimental to the Trade of this Company, and, we conceive, to that of the whole Nation. It was therefore reſolved, Nemine Contradicente, to uſe all dutiful and legal Methods to oppoſe any ſuch new Exciſe, under what Denomination ſoever it may be attempted; and that the Expence of ſuch Oppoſition be paid by the Wardens of this Company, by the Order

der of the Governor. And it is alſo order'd, That the Repreſentatives in Parliament of this Corporation be acquainted with this our Reſolution, and be deſir'd in the Name of this Company, on behalf of themſelves, and the reſt of the Trading Burgeſſes, to uſe their utmoſt Endeavours to prevent any ſuch Bill from paſſing. CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 10. 1732-3.

Members.
WILLIAM CARR Eſq;
NICHOLAS FENWICK Eſq;

NEWBURY.

To Sir John Stonehouſe *Bart. and* Winchcomb Howard Packer *Eſq; Repreſentatives in Parliament for the County of* Berks.

The humble Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgeſſes of the Borough of Newbury, *in Behalf of themſelves and other chief Inhabitants of the ſaid Borough.*

SHEWETH,

THAT the preſent Exciſe upon ſeveral Commodities already exciſed, is vaſtly inconvenient and troubleſome to the Traders in it; and that the leaſt Increaſe therein will increaſe their Burthen, and a General Exciſe render Trade intolerable to them; which plainly appears from the Neceſſity there muſt be of frequently having their Stocks of Goods weigh'd and meaſur'd, and applying to Officers for Permits to ſend out the ſame; ſo that they would have but little Opportunity left for Trade. And further, it would ſubject their Cuſtomers and Conſumptions to the Knowledge of Perſons no way fit to be let into it, as well at being Matters of too great Conſequence to be try'd before Commiſſioners, who in reality are Parties, and ſo render'd quite unfit for Judges,

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, That you will, to the utmoſt, oppoſe any Attempt that may be made for burthening us with any new Exciſe, or any ways extending of the preſent Exciſe.

NOT-

NOTTINGHAM.

A Letter to one of the Repreſentatives in Parliament for the Town of Nottingham, *ſign'd by moſt of the principal Merchants and Tradeſmen of the ſaid Town.*

SIR,

THIS Day we (moſt of the principal Merchants and Tradeſmen of this Town) met together, to conſult about the Conſequences of a Bill deſign'd (as reported) to be brought into the Houſe of Commons this Seſſions, for turning the Duty on Tobacco, Wine, and other Commodities, into an Exciſe; and having read and obſerv'd the Reaſons publiſh'd in print againſt it, and well weigh'd the ill Conſequences of it, or any other Extenſion of the Exciſe, if paſs'd into a Law, do think the ſame would infringe upon the Liberties we have hitherto ſo happily enjoy'd; particularly the ſubjecting our Houſes to the Inſpection of little Officers, by Day or Night, when they pleaſe, we having frequent Experience of their being too troubleſome and oppreſſive here already, and of the Difficulty of being heard and reliev'd againſt their Oppreſſions and falſe Repreſentations by thoſe Gentlemen to whom only there is any Appeal, when moved for by even the beſt affected to his Majeſty: We are therefore determin'd to exert ourſelves againſt making ſuch a Law, and do earneſtly intreat you, Sir, to uſe your utmoſt Endeavours to prevent the paſſing any Bill, to ſubject the Traders to the Laws of Exciſe, or any further Extenſion of them than what they are now ſubject to; or any Thing that may be a Diſcouragement to our Commerce, or againſt the Liberty or Property of our Trade; and herein you will oblige the Tradeſmen of the Nation in general, and particularly, worthy Sir,

Your moſt humble Servants.

LONDON EVENING POST, *Feb.* 1. 1732-3.

Members.

Hon. Sir JOHN STANHOPE,
BORLACE WARREN Eſq;

ORFORD.

THE Ancient Corporation of *Orford* in *Suffolk*, have wrote to their Repreſentatives, to oppoſe the extortion of Exciſe, in whatever Shape it may come into Parliament.

LONDON EVENING POST, *Feb.* 22. 1732-3.

Members.

ROBERT KEMP Eſq;
WILLIAM ACTON Eſq;

ROCHESTER.

Inſtructions from the City of Rocheſter, *under their common Seal, to* Sir John Jennings *Knt. and* David Polhill *Eſq; their Repreſentatives.*

SIR,

A Juſt Concern for the Intereſt of our Country, and the general Uneaſineſs of the good People of *England* at this Juncture, occaſioned by their Apprehenſions of an intended Extenſion of the *Exciſe Laws*, have moved us to repreſent to you our entire Diſapprobation of any ſuch Deſign. We had not ſo long deferred giving you our Sentiments in this Affair, could we have believed that ſuch an *open Invaſion of our Liberties*, eſtabliſhed by MAGNA CHARTA, could have been attempted at this Time

Therefore we, the *Mayor*, *Aldermen*, and *Common Council* aſſembled, do hereby make it our Requeſt to you, on behalf of ourſelves and the reſt of our Fellow-Citizens, (in caſe any Motion ſhould he made in order to bring in a Bill for a *farther Exciſe*, under what Title, or Denomination ſoever the ſame ſhall be,) that you will with the utmoſt Vigour and Reſolution oppoſe the ſame, it being (as we conceive) ſo great an Infringement of our *ancient Liberties*, ſo very detrimental to *Trade*, and ſo univerſally diſliked by *all impartial and diſintereſted People*. When the *Union of the two Kingdoms* was under the Conſideration of the Hon. Houſe

of

of Commons, our then worthy Member, Sir *Stafford Fairbourn*, requeſted the Mayor to call a *Common-Hall*, that he might have the Sentiments of his *Electors* on that important Affair: *A Noble Inſtance of our undoubted Liberties!* We therefore expect [* agreeable to your former Conduct among our *Kentiſh Worthies*] that you will allow us a Right of applying to you, on this important Occaſion, eſpecially as our only Motive is the Good of our Country, which we cannot but hope you have with us ſincerely and ſolely at Heart.

Given under our Common Seal the 5th Day of February, 1732.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 17.

Members

Sir JOHN JENNINGS *Knt.*
DAVID POLHILL *Eſq*;

To the Author of the DAILY POST.

SIR, ROCHESTER, *March* 4. 1733.

I Deſire you will pleaſe to give the underwritten a Place in your next, and you will oblige your conſtant Reader, PHILO-ANGL.

" Mr. *Osborne*, in his Letter of the 17th of *February*, " for a Confirmation of the Madneſs of the People, " ſays the *Rocheſter* Inſtructions to their Members are " an evident Proof. But that Hireling has not perhaps " ſeen a Collection of the many Grievances they labour " under, ſo many as will give every Lover of his Country great Concern; a Summary of which he may " expect ſpeedily.

" The Inſtructions ſent to their Members, were under their Common Seal, legally obtained and carryed " in Court by a very great Majority, as will appear " by their Minute Book, a Copy of which, I am informed, has been required by a Neighbouring Perſon " in Power, of whom Mr. *Osborne* might have been

* Omitted in that directed to Sir *John Jennings*.

"better informed, and not have publiſhed ſuch notori-
"ous Falſhoods in his Journal of the 24th paſt

DAILY POST, *March* 6.

RYE.

The following Letter from the Town of Rye, *in the County of* Suſſex, *was ſent to* Philip Gibbon *and* Matthew Norris *Eſqrs, their Repreſentatives in Parliament.*

HONOUR'D SIRS,

WHEN firſt we heard the Report of a new or additional Exciſe, to be attempted this Seſſion of Parliment, we looked upon it as a Story invented to create Uneaſineſſes in the Minds of the People, not ſuppoſing it could enter into the Heart of any *Engliſhman* to impoſe ſuch a Burden upon the Nation, or that (at a Time when we have Peace with all the World) we ſhould become ſubject to an infamous Method of raiſing Taxes, unknown to our Forefathers, even in their greateſt Neceſſities: We could not imagine this to be the Reward of ſo much Blood ſpilt, and Treaſure ſpent, in Defence of our dear Liberties; that it was for this the Subjects of *Great Britian* had raiſed ſuch Numbers of brave Men, and ſuch aſtoniſhing Sums of Money; that this was to be the Reward of ſo many glorious Campaigns and Victories, and the Fruits of Treaties lately concluded with all the Power of *Europe*, and ſaid to be ſo much for the Honour and Advantage of this Kingdom. Our Zeal for his Majeſty, and the Bleſſings we hope from the Succeſſion in his illuſtrious Houſe, would not ſuffer us to entertain a Thought of ſo dangerous a Step from any one in his Service; nor could we ſuſpect a *Britiſh* Parliament would ſuffer a Scheme ſo plainly tending to the Ruin of Trade and Subverſion of our excellent Conſtitution, even to be propoſed with Impunity to the Author. Theſe Conſiderations, this great Confidence in our Governors, prevented our Belief of any Danger, till we now ſee the Deſign owned, and Books diſperſed from the Pub-

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lick Offices endeavouring to prepare our Minds quietly to ſuffer ourſelves to be fettered. What a ſurprizing Grief muſt this be to all true Lovers of their Country! how ſhocking! at a Time when they juſtly hoped to be eaſed of ſuch of thoſe heavy Taxes as moſt ſenſibly affect their Trade and Manufactures; to be freed from that abominable modern Practice of trying Cauſes betwixt the Sovereign and the Subject without Juries, by Perſons employed and entirely dependant on the Crown; when they expected a Reduction in the Military Forces, and the National Expences gradually leſſened. Theſe pleaſing flattering Hopes ſoon vaniſhing, we now, alas! ſee the Monſter ready to devour us. To you, therefore, our worthy Repreſentatives, after the Example of many other Towns and Places, we fly for Protection: With you we have intruſted our All; and from you we expect the utmoſt of your Endeavours for our Security: To you we recommend our Intereſt, and that of our dear Country; deſiring, to the very beſt of your Power, you'll oppoſe any Extenſion of the Exciſe Laws, under what Pretence, or in whatever Shape or Dreſs it may be preſented: Let it extend to no one Species of Goods not yet exciſed; for there is no Room to doubt the ſame Meaſures now uſed to eſtabliſh an additional Herd of Officers all over the Country will prevail hereafter to find Employment, granting one Duty after another, till the Exciſe be general, and the Nation's Miſery compleat.

From your known Affection to his Majeſty, his Family, and Government, from your Love of your Country, we promiſe ourſelves you'll heartily ſtruggle to render abortive a Scheme equally injurious to both. We are ſenſible his Majeſty places his chief Happineſs in the Affection of his Subjects, and would not impoſe on them any Thing grievous: It is well known the Extenſion of the Excile Laws is what the Nation in general hath a Dread and Abhorence of, and would (it is to be feared) create a Murmuring and Diſſatisfaction amongſt many Well-wiſhers to the preſent happy Eſtabliſhment; to prevent which, every good Subject ought to contribute his Endeavours; we therefore, again and again, beg you'll exert yourſelves at this critical Juncture, and do every Thing in your Power to ſecure us from the impending Danger, by which you'll ren-

der

der an imporant Service to your Country, and ever oblige,

Honoured Sirs,

Given under the Common Seal of Rye, *the* 15*th Day of* Feb 1732-3.

Your moſt Obedient, and Moſt humble Servants,

The Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty of the ancient Town of *Rye*.

LONDON EVENING. *Feb.* 26.

READING.

A Copy of a Letter, from the Inhabitants (being Burgeſſes) of the Town of Reading, *in the County of* Berks, *to their Repreſentatives.*

SIR,

THE general Clamour againſt an additional Exciſe, and the worthy Example ſet us by the Citizens of *London*, excite us to addreſs ourſelves to you as one of our Repreſentatives, humbly requeſting you to uſe your utmoſt Endeavours againſt ſo growing an Evil.

You juſtly conſider the great Weight the Subject groan under, from the many Taxes and Duties already impoſed.

That the Nature of this Duty now in queſtion, takes from us that valuable Bleſſing of being tried *per pares*, ſaps and undermines the very Foundation of our Conſtitution, ſo much envied by all *Europe*.

You, Sir, like a good Phyſician, will oppoſe the very Beginning of a Diſeaſe. It is very eaſy to prevent a Miſchief, which is not eaſy, nor poſſible to remedy: Your Wiſdom can foreſee and obviate Inconveniences too ſtrong to be removed, when they are once eſtabliſhed.

As your Zeal for the Good of your Country, has ſhewed itſelf upon all Occaſion, we need not remind you of the pernicious Conſequences from this overgrown Monſter, this great LEVIATHAN, the EXCIZE, nor need we urge how ſenſible our Anceſtors were of the dreadful Effects it would bring forth; ſo ſenſible that

that they could not bear the Name, much leſs the Burthen, although diſguiſed under the ſpecious Pretence of Neceſſity; and ſome more honourable, have not ſcrupled to ſay, " That they would be hanged at " the Door of the Houſe of Commons, before they " would give their Conſent".

If they had ſo great a Regard for us, will it not become us likewiſe ſo to diſtinguiſh ourſelves to our Poſterity?

We hope, Sir, you have nothing more at Heart.

This is the Fatal Rock we muſt inevitably ſplit againſt, if you and the other Repreſentatives, as skillful Pilots, avoid not the Danger by your Wiſdom and ſtedfaſt Reſolution.

Should an Exciſe become general, ſhould this Evil grow epidemical, would not every Free Briton think the Promoter of it an Enemy to his Country? Would he not juſtly incur the Cenſure of the *Roman* Senate, and deſerve to have that Sentence denounced againſt him, *Curſe on the Man who owes his Greatneſs to his Country's Ruin*?

Your Sentiments we hope are ſo comformable to this, that we have troubled you too much, and therefore beg Leave to ſubcribe ourſelves,

Your moſt Obedient Servants, *&c.*

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 20. 1733.

Members.

RICHARD TOMPSON Eſq.
RICHARD PATTINGER Eſq.

RIPPON.

The following Letter was wrote by the People of Rippon *to their Repreſentative in Parliament.*

To the Hon. William Aiſlabie *Eſq; Member of Parliament, in* Albermarle-Street, London.

SIR, RIPPON, *Jan.* 21. 1732-3.

BY current Reports, from moſt Parts of the Kingdom, we hear that a Bill is intended to be brought into Parliament for an Exciſe, and are apprehenſive, that if it ſhould paſs, it would reduce the Trade of this Town to the loweſt Extremity; our Situation is

ſuch

ſuch, that we are circumſcribed in Trade, being chiefly Retailers: Beſides, if the Management of ſuch Duties ſhould be under the Inſpection of Officers, and the Duties intended to be laid on ſhould be paid by the laſt Retailer or Vendor, the Trouble and Inconvenience would be inſupportable to the Inland Trade in general.

Therefore, Sir, we moſt earneſtly requeſt you will be pleaſed to uſe your utmoſt Intereſt in oppoſing any ſuch Bill; and that you will communicate this our Requeſt to your Couſin *Aiſlabie*, and the reſt of your Friends, in ſuch a Manner as you ſhall think moſt proper. In this you will ſtill add to the many Favours conferred on us, who are, with Eſteem,

SIR,

Your moſt Obedient,

and obliged Servants, &c.

SOUTHWARK.

ON *Wedneſday* laſt there was a meeting of the principal Traders of the Borough of *Southwark*, when they reſolv'd to depute proper Perſons to wait on their two Repreſentatives, and earneſtly deſire them to oppoſe any Motion that ſhall be made in the Houſe of Commons for a New Exciſe.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 6. 1732-3.

AT a meeting of great numbers of Merchants, Traders, and other Inhabitants of the Borough of *Southwark*, on *Monday* laſt, it was agreed to act with the utmoſt Unanimity, and by all dutiful and lawful Methods, ſtrenuouſly to oppoſe any new Excile, or any Extenſion of Exciſe Laws, under whatever Name or Pretence it may be attempted; and a Committee of Twenty-one of the principal Traders in the ſaid Borough was appointed to wait on their Repreſentatives with the ſaid Reſolution, and in the moſt earneſt Manner requeſt them, in the Name of the ſaid Merchants, Traders, and Inhabitants, to oppoſe with the utmoſt Vigour and Reſolution, any Motion of that Kind in the Houſe of Commons; for

ſhould

ſhould ſuch Exciſe-Laws take Effect, it will be highly prejudicial to the Trade, Manufacture, and Navigation, as well as dangerous to the Liberties of the whole Kingdom.

CRAFTSMAN, *July* 13, 1733.

Members.
Sir JOSEPH EYLES Knt.
THO. INWEN Eſq,

SALOP and *SHREWSBURY*,

THE Members for the County of *Salop* and Town of *Shrewsbury* have receiv'd a Letter, ſign'd by ſeveral of the moſt conſiderable Traders, Inhabitants of the ſaid Town, requeſting them in the ſtrongeſt Terms ſtrenuouſly to oppoſe any *New Exciſe*, or *Extenſion of the Exciſe Laws*, in any Shape whatſoever.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 17.

Members for Salop *County.*
JOHN WALCOT,
WILLIAM LACON CHILD, } Eſquires
Salop *Town.*
Sir JOHN ASTLEY Bart.
RICHARD LISTER Eſq;

STAMFORD.

WE hear from *Stamford* in *Lincolnſhire*, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-Council, in Common-Hall aſſembled, have unanimouſly reſolved earneſtly to requeſt the Members of their Borough, and alſo the Repreſentatives for the County of *Lincoln*, to oppoſe any new Exciſe, or Extenſion of the Laws of Exciſe, under whatever Name or Pretence it may be attempted.

Members.
WILLIAM NOELE Eſq;
ROBERT SHIRLEY Eſq;

SOUTHAMPTON.

LAST Week the Mayor and Principal Merchants and Traders of the County of *Southampton*, wrote

a Letter to their Member, *Anthony Henly* Esq; desiring that he would oppose to the utmost of his Power any Bill that should be brought into Parliament, for an *Excise* on any Goods now payable at the Custom-house, or any Extension of the *Excise Laws*.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 5. 1732-3.

Members.

WILLIAM HEATHCOAT Esq;
ANTHONY HENLY Esq.

STRATFORD upon Avon.

WE hear the Mayor, Aldermen, Burgesses, and chief Inhabitants, of the ancient Borough of *Stratford upon Avon*, in the County of *Warwick*, have wrote to the Representatives in Parliament for the said County, desiring them to oppose any *New Excise*, or *Extension* of *Excise Laws*, in any Shape whatsoever. Notwithstanding the Opposition given to it by Councellor *Clopton*, yet the same was done with great Ease and Unanimity.

CRAFTSMAN, *March* 3. 1732-3.

Members.

Hon. EDWARD DIGBY.
WILLIAM PEYTON Esq;

SUDBURY.

Copy of a Letter from the Borough of Sudbury *in the County of* Suffolk, *to* John Knight *and* Carteret Leeths *Esqrs, their Representatives in Parliament.*

GENTLEMEN, *Feb.* 19. 1732-3.

THE many gradual Advances that the Laws of Excise have made upon us, proves burthensome and discouraging to Trade; and the present Design, which we hear is on Foot, to extend them further, gives us too much Reason to fear, that they will increase to so great a Number, as will prove fatal to Trade and the Liberty of Subject.

And

And therefore, as you are our Repreſentatives in Parliament, we earneſtly requeſt, nay, let us conjure you, by all the Obligations which the important Truſt repoſed in you, and your high Station, lays you under, that if a Motion for extending the ſaid Laws any further ſhould be made in Parliament, you would ſtrenuouſly oppoſe it, and thereby demonſtrate you are acting becoming the Repreſentatives of a Trading Borough in the Hon. Houſe of Commons of *Great Britain*, which will much oblige many of the Electors of the Borough of *Sudbury*, and

Your Humble Servants.

TAUNTON.

SOME Days ago the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the Borough of *Taunton*, in *Somerſetſhire*, and alſo the Gentlemen, Traders, and principal Inhabitants of that populous Town, met and order'd Letters to be ſent to their Repreſentatives in Parliament, for that Town and County, and to all the Gentlement of the County, who have Seats in Parliament, earneſtly deſiring them to oppoſe an Exciſe in any Shape on Goods now rated at the Cuſtom Houſe, and any *Extenſion of the Engliſh Laws*.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 5. 1732-3.

Members.

FRANCIS FANE Eſq;
GEORGE SPEAKE Eſq;

TOBACCONISTS.

AT a General Meeting of the Tobaconiſts of *London*, held Yeſterday at the *Rummer-Tavern* in *Queen-Street*, it was unanimouſly reſolved to act in Concert with the Committee appointed by the Citizens, Merchants, and Traders of *London*; and by all juſt and lawful Means to oppoſe any new Exciſe, or Extenſion of the Exciſe Laws, under whatever Name or Pretence it may be attempted: And a Committee was appointed for that Purpoſe.

LOND. EVEN. *Jun.* 9.

VINTNERS.

WE hear a Court of Aſſiſtance of the worſhipful Company of *Vintners* was held on *Thurſday* at their Hall in *Thames-Street*; at which Time a great Number of Dealers of Wine attended there, in order to oppoſe, by all dutiful and lawful Methods, any new Exciſe, under whatever Name or Pretence may be attempted. LOND. EVEN. *Jan.* 13.

WORCESTER.

THE Borough of *Worceſter* have made the ſame Application to their Repreſentatives, as that of *Coventry*.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan.* 27.

Members.

SAMUEL SANDYS Eſq;
Sir RICHARD LANE Knt.

WARWICK.

THE Members of the Borough of *Warwick* have received a Letter ſigned by the Mayor, Aldermen, and principal Inhabitants of the ſaid Borough, requeſting them, in the ſtrongeſt Terms to oppoſe *any new Exciſe*, or *Extention of the Exciſe Laws*, in any Shape whatſoever.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 10.

Members.

Sir WILL. KEYS Bart.
WILL. BROMLEY, Jun. Eſq;

WHITEHAVEN.

ON the 25th paſt, the Merchants and Traders of *Whitehaven* met, and unanimouſly reſolved to write to the Repreſentatives in Parliament for *Cumberland*,

berland, and desire them to oppose any Attempt which may be made, for laying any new Excise, or extending the present Excise Laws.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb.* 10.

Members for Cumberland.

GILFRID LAWSON Esq;
JOHN LOWDER Esq,

WOODSTOCK.

Feb. 22. 1732-3.

To the Hon. Mr. John Spencer.

SIR,

WE are greatly alarmed here with a Report, that there will be a Proposal made this Session of Parliament for laying several new Excises; which obliges us to have Recourse to you, who are one of our Representatives, (and the only one whose Health will permit him to serve us,) to desire you will, to the utmost of your Power, oppose any Thing of that Sort, if it is offered; and we think it our Duty, on so extraordinary an Occasion, to put you in mind of yours, which is to serve us. We are, with Reason, afraid that an Increase of Excise Officers may in Time endanger our most valuable Privilege of chusing freely our own Representatives; and when that is done, we know we can be no longer a free People: As long as we are so, we shall always chuse Men of good Families and Fortunes; when we are not, we must for Form's sake send somebody, but it will be whom we are ordered; for that Reason it is highly your Interest to oppose any Project that may take away our free Choice. Expecting you will follow our Instructions,

We are your most humble Servants.

Given under our Common Seal the 23*d Day of* Feb. 1732-3.

LOND. EVENING.

Members.

Hon. Mr. JOHN SPENCER,
SAMUEL TROTMAN Esq;

S *WOGAN.*

WOGAN.

The following Letter, ſigned by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgeſſes of Wogan, *has been ſent to their Repreſentatives.*

SIR,

WE think our Repreſentatives in Parliament, as Guardians of the Rights and Liberties of the People, are inveſted with a Truſt of the higheſt and laſt Importance; and it is to be hoped that if we did not apply to you, you would, in return for the great Confidence we repoſe in you, on all Occaſions have a due Regard for the Reſervation of that valuable Part of our Conſtitution, whereby the Enjoyment of thoſe Rights and Liberties have been ſecured to us.

The Propoſal for increaſing or extending the Laws of Exciſe, that has been of late much talked of, has been the Cauſe of ſome Diſſatisfaction here; and the Pamphlet handed about amongſt us in favour of it, has rather increaſed, than diminiſhed our Apprehenſions, by giving us a nearer Proſpect of the Danger that ſeems likely to attend the Execution of it: We therefore think it neceſſary for us to communicate to you our Sentiments, and deſire you will, to the utmoſt of your Power, oppoſe all Attempts that ſhall be made to introduce this, or any other Scheme of the like Kind, on any Pretence whatſoever.

We are, Sir,

Yours, &c.

LOND. EVEN. *Feb.* 22.

Members.

Sir ROGER BRADSHAW,
PETER BOLD Eſq;

YORK.

FROM *York* we hear, the 15th Inſtant there was a Meeting of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, and principal Traders of that

that City; when they unanimouſly wrote to their Repreſentatives in Parliament, requeſting them ſtrenouſly to oppoſe any new Exciſe, in whatever Manner it may be attempted.

FOG. *Jan.* 27.

Members.

Sir WILL. MILNER Bart.
EDWARD THOMPSON Eſq;

FINIS.